

We claim:

1. A unilimb conduit for providing inspiratory gases to a patient and receiving expiratory gases therefrom, said unilimb conduit having a distal end and a proximal end, wherein said distal end of said unilimb conduit is operatively connectable to and detachable from a patient by a user at a site of use, and said proximal end of said unilimb conduit is operatively connectable to and detachable from a proximal terminal by a user at a site of use wherein the proximal terminal is of the type that has a rigid housing having first and second conduits which converge at a distal end of the proximal terminal so as to be capable of simultaneous operative connection to said proximal end of said unilimb conduit and wherein the first and second conduits in the proximal terminal diverge from each other proximally of the distal end of the proximal terminal so that the first conduit of the proximal terminal may be independently operatively connected to a source of inspiratory gas while the second conduit of the proximal terminal may be independently operatively connected to an expiratory outlet, said unilimb conduit comprising:

a first flexible tube and a second flexible tube, said tubes defining independent flow paths and each having a distal end and a proximal end, wherein when said unilimb conduit is operatively connected to a proximal terminal of said type, said distal end of said first tube is placed in fluid communication with the proximal end of the first conduit and simultaneously said distal end of said second tube is placed in fluid communication with the proximal end of the second conduit wherein said first tube may be operatively connected to a source of inspiratory gas via the proximal terminal while said second tube may be operatively connected to an expiratory outlet via the proximal terminal, wherein said unilimb conduit may be operatively detached from a proximal terminal after use therewith for independent disposal or sterilization.

2. The unilimb conduit of claim 1, further comprising: a proximal fitting, said proximal fitting comprising a first pipe and a second pipe maintained in fixed relationship to each other, said first pipe and second pipe each having a proximal end and a distal end, wherein said distal end of said first pipe is operably connected to said proximal end of said first tube and said distal end of said second pipe is operably connected to said proximal end of said second tube, said pipes comprising a material more rigid than the material forming said first and second tubes.

3. The unilimb conduit of claim 1, further comprising a proximal terminal operatively connected thereto, wherein said proximal terminal comprises a rigid housing having first and second conduits which converge at a distal end of said proximal terminal so as to be capable of simultaneous operative connection to said proximal end of said unilimb conduit and wherein said first and second conduits in said proximal terminal diverge from each other proximally of said distal end of said proximal terminal so that said first conduit of said proximal terminal may be independently operatively connected to a source of inspiratory gas while said second conduit of said proximal terminal may be independently operatively connected to an expiratory outlet, wherein said unilimb conduit can be operatively detached from said proximal terminal for independent sterilization or disposal.

4. The unilimb conduit of claim 3, wherein said unilimb conduit is operatively connected through a filter to said proximal terminal.

5. The unilimb conduit of claim 2, wherein said proximal end of one of said pipes is capable of being operably connected to an inspiratory gas input while said proximal end of the other one of said pipes is operably connected to an exhaust outlet, and wherein said distal end of said unilimb conduit can be operably connected to an airway device connected to a mammal, and wherein a user may utilize said unilimb conduit in an assisted ventilation system by operable connection of said proximal fitting to an inspiratory gas input and an expiratory gas outlet in order to provide inspiratory gases and exhaust expiratory gases from a mammal, and may disconnect said proximal fitting from the assisted ventilation system after use.

6. The unilimb conduit of claim 1, wherein the outer diameter of said first tube is smaller than the inner diameter of said second tube, said first tube being at least partially disposed within said second tube, said distal end of said first tube being disposed within and in direct fluid communication with the interior of said second tube.

7. The unilimb conduit of claim 1, further comprising a distal fitting at

said distal end of said unilimb conduit which can be operably connected to an airway device, said distal fitting having a distal opening therein to permit passage of inspiratory and expiratory gases therethrough, said distal opening having blocking means therein to block insertion therein of tubing or fittings.

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8. The unilimb conduit of claim 7, wherein said distal fitting further comprises connector means, said connector means only permitting connection of said distal fitting to devices having a mating connector.

10 9. The unilimb conduit of claim 7, wherein said connector means includes means for locking engagement with a mating connector on a device to which said distal fitting is to be attached.

10. An adaptor for connecting components into an assisted ventilation system, comprising a patient device connector and a proximal connector, wherein said patient device connector permits connection to a standard slip fitting on the proximal end of a patient device selected from the group consisting of an endotracheal tube, a mask, a filter, a dead space tube, a heat and moisture exchanger, an artificial nose, a nebulizer, a water trap, and a coaxial respiratory conduit,

20 and said proximal connector permits connection to a mating distal connector of an assisted ventilation system component, the mating distal connector having a blocking member to prohibit insertion therein of the proximal end of patient devices other than those having said proximal connector.

25 11. The adaptor of claim 10, further comprising means for locking engagement with the mating distal connector on an assisted ventilation system component to which the adaptor may be connected.

30 12. The adaptor of claim 10, further comprising indicator means for indicating the status of the connection of said proximal connector to a mating distal connector, said indicator means being at least one of the group consisting of a tactile indicator and an audible indicator.